The Quiet Corner

THE ARTS, DINING, ANTIQUES, ATTRACTIONS & SO MUCH MORE...

PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 24 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009

For An Afternoon, A Day, Or A Weekend...Come And Enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!

The Golden Lamb Buttery, Brooklyn

Autumn is a beautiful time of year to explore the Quiet Corner. As the leaves change color, residents and visitors can enjoy special events such as the Roseland Cottage Craft Festival, the Artists' Open Studio Tour, Walktober, Putnam's Pumpkin Festival, and more. Shops fill their shelves with gifts for everyone including local artwork, handcrafted jewelry, pottery, books, local food products, and more. Dining is always a treat, many restaurants offer seasonal menu items that warm the heart & soul. You can pick-your-own apples and pumpkins, enjoy a wine-tasting, cut down your own Christmas tree, and find unique holiday decorations to adorn your home. There is something for everyone in northeastern Connecticut...if you can't find it here, it probably doesn't exist!

Inside:

A calendar of events...Local Advertisers...discover ***New Boston Beef, LLC***...suppliers of organically grown beef to residents and businesses throughout Connecticut...***Pomfret Spirit Shoppe & Wine Shed***... has been serving residents of northeastern Connecticut for over 55 years...***Sun Run Gardens***...this 'down-to-earth' shop features fresh and dried flowers, homegrown veggies, and handmade gifts such as jewelry, pottery, handwoven pillows, scarves, place mats and more, all at a price you can afford... and...***Mountain Biking***...the mountain biker community here is a strong one...find out why so many mountain bikers love it here!

And more:

The Putnam Traveler Weekend Planner...provides suggestions for weekend visitors...***Someplace Special***... find out what has changed and more importantly what hasn't...***Holiday Shopping***...we have put together a listing of shops in Woodstock, Putnam and Pomfret to make your holiday shopping easy and fun...Putnam's River Front Commons welcomes the new ***Crabtree & Evelyn Community Store***...and ***Walktober***... throughout the month of October enjoy over 25 walks, rides and paddle events throughout the 35 towns in northeastern Connecticut and Massachusetts, organized by The Last Green Valley...

Downtown Putnam & Area Maps • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Calendar of Events

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THE PUTNAM TRAVELER
is Designed and Published by:
GDP
GLOBAL DESIGN & PUBLISHING LLC
860-963-0414 • www.GDPublishing.com
East Putnam, Connecticut • 860-963-0414
www.PutnamTraveler.com • www.gdpublishing.com

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Printing of the Putnam Traveler provided by **101 Business Solutions, LLC,** Brooklyn, CT
Mailing services provided by **The Laser Letter Shop**, Pomfret, CT

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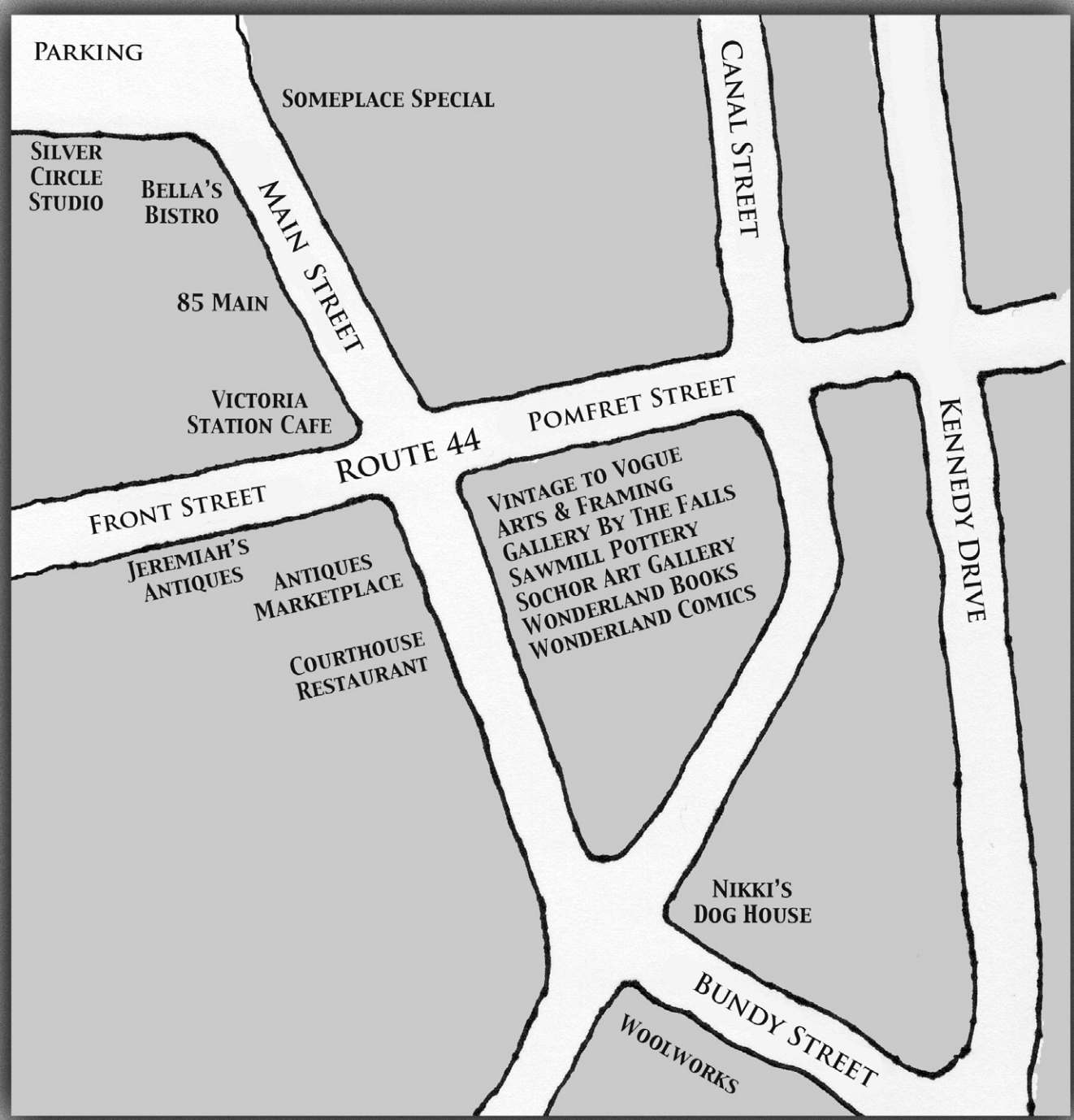
Shopping & Dining Fun !

Friday Nights in Putnam

From Gourmet to Casual - Great Dining Choices



Shop Antiques, Fine Arts, Crafts, Books, & Gifts

and Be Sure To Join Us for these Special Events:

Saturday October 24th
The Great Pumpkin Festival - All Day

Friday October 30th
Trick-or-Treat on Main Street from 5 to 7 pm

Friday November 27th thru Sunday November 29th
Antiques Marketplace 18th Anniversary Super Sale

Sunday November 29th
Holiday Dazzle Light Parade

New Boston Beef, LLC

"Farming is in my blood," said twenty-five year old Jonathan Eddy as he walked up a well-used farm road to a gleaming new red barn on his family farm in the Fabyan section of Thompson. A herd of black and white Simmental cattle raised their shiny heads from their deeply focused eating to greet him.

BY NANCY WEISS

Eddy, a graduate of Tourtellotte High School and SUNY at Morrisville, NY, has the erect bearing of a young man, who is fit, alert and ready to work. He is an entrepreneur to the core. When he was 9, he planted pumpkins and vegetables and sold them in front of his home. He kept up the business until the ripe old age of 13, when we decided he was 'tired of pulling weeds' and began raising dairy replacement heifers.

At 16, Eddy began buying beef cattle, which was the genesis of his current enterprise, New Boston Beef, LLC. a company that was formally incorporated in 2008. The name of the business was chosen for historic and marketing reasons. Thompson is comprised of 10 villages. Fabyan was called New Boston until 1916.

"I chose the name, but sometimes it confuses people at the Farmer's Market because they think it is a Boston company," Eddy said with a shake of his head.

Eddy's cattle live in a clean, well-ventilated barn and graze in the rolling pastures surrounding the 19th century Eddy homestead, where he lives with his parents, Ross Eddy, who works for USDA, and Susan, a physical therapist is employed by EASTCONN, as Jonathan says with a smile, his secretary and computer specialist. Little sister, Julia, rounds out the family support system by providing some comic relief for her hard-working brother.

The Simmentals, selected for the quality of the meat they produce, are primarily on pasture in season and consume quantities of grass silage, fed to them from large, round bales and cornmeal, which provides a balanced feed for energy and protein. In the 18-24 months they live at the farm Eddy cares for them diligently.

When it is time for the cattle to be slaughtered, they are transported to Lemay & Sons in Goffstown, NH, a USDA inspected plant that packages the meat in clear plastic wrap, called cryovac. The packaging allows the consumer to see the meat, which is sold at area farmer's markets.

"The farmers' markets in Putnam, Coventry and Bozrah are the best outlets for my beef. I like getting out and talking with the customers and the other vendors. I'm at the markets on Thursday, Friday and Sunday in the summer," he added.

At the markets, Eddy noted that older people like to talk about the farms they visited in their youth. Other patrons question him closely about how he treats his animals. Eddy, a naturally quiet man who stands with his arms crossed in front of him, had to learn to look

"My beef cattle live in a clean, low stress environment, where they can move around easily. They are raised all naturally, anti-biotic free and no hormones are added to the beef. That makes a difference in the meat," said Eddy.

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Jonathan Eddy

more open and welcoming when manning the booth at the farmers' markets.

"Marketing is one of my challenges," he said, echoing the concerns of many small business owners.

As locally grown food grows in popularity, Eddy is riding the wave, at least in a small way. The Vanilla Bean Café features his ground beef as their 'locally grown burger,' Brian Jessurun, co-owner of the Vanilla Bean Café liked New Boston Beef from the first time he tasted it.

"We first sampled Jonathan's product a year ago. We loved it and put it in the special board and it sold well. I think it has a more sublime flavor. It is just different," Jessurun added.

Barry Jessurun said, "New Boston Beef is on our regular menu, now, and really sells when we run it as a special."

Eddy looks forward to expanding the number of restaurants and schools in the region that want to purchase his beef, although he acknowledges that for some, the increased price of locally grown presents challenges. Heritage Trail Vineyard in Lisbon, CT has become a regular customer for New Boston's sweet and hot beef sausages. Rising Moon All Natural Foods in Plainfield, CT also carries some New Boston Beef products.

Ground beef sells for $4.95 per pound and steaks such as porterhouse at $13.95. Eddy's personal favorite, rib steak sells for $10.98 per pound.

"The steaks and roasts sell out quickly at the markets. Select cuts can be purchased at the farm store in Fabyan by appointment or at the Putnam, Coventry or Bozrah farmers' markets." Eddy said. He added that during the winter when the markets close, he plans to be open for business on weekends at his farm.

Farming can be a lonely business, so Eddy is involved in a number of volunteer organizations for the chance to socialize and learn what is new in the farm arena. He is an active member of Young Farmers and Ranchers, a division of the CT Farm Bureau, which is growing rapidly in membership. He participates in activities in the Last Green Valley program and is active in the affairs of the three farmer's markets where he has a booth.

At 25 Jonathan Eddy has built a business that continues to grow to reflect the increased demand for locally grown food. Despite the challenges of finding enough land to grow the hay his cattle require and the long hours he works, Jonathan likes being his own boss and making his own decisions. When asked to express his dreams, Eddy said all he really wants is to be profitable enough to buy the farm from his parents and raise a family of his own while doing the work he loves so much.

To learn more or to place an order visit www.newbostonbeef.com or call 860-315-2408.

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Pomfret Spirit Shoppe *& Wine Shed*

A Friendly Place 'Where Everybody Knows Your Name...'

BY CRIS CADIZ

Pomfret Spirit Shoppe & Wine Shed on Route 169 is a little like Cheers...a friendly, cozy place where everybody knows your name. Enter and you are literally surrounded by wine. Wooden cases of wine bottles are displayed everywhere, including most of the floor space ... which makes it easy to read labels. Any day of the week, you can find neighbors chatting as they choose their Cabernet or pick up a cold bottle of local Sharpe Hill Chardonnay. "The atmosphere here is different from most package stores," says owner and proprietor Mary Patenaude. "We have an extensive wine selection from around the world but we also have a pretty good imported beer and liquor selection as well."

Every Saturday you can stop by for a tasting. Usually, you can try two to four different wines or sometimes a liquor. New products are often introduced during Saturday tastings. "Our vendors are constantly trying us on new wines," explains Mary, "They host tastings seasonally for the trade, which we attend."

She also keeps up with the ever-changing industry by reading Wine Spectator and other trade publications. Although known for its selection of fine wines and spirits, Pomfret Spirit Shoppe is a place where you can buy Bud Light as well as vintage Burgundy. They also stock locally produced wines by Sharpe Hill and Taylor Brook vineyards. Best of all, when in doubt, you can get good advice on your selection. Mention something that you like to Mary or to friendly, helpful salesperson Bette Spielvogel and you will be steered in the right direction. Fall in love with a particular wine? Ask for their 10% case discount. Need a special order? Just call...if they can get it, they will contact you when it has arrived.

Something new the Shoppe offers is specialty Gift Baskets, which can include wine, liquor, or beer plus glassware and other accessories. The Shoppe can also assist in planning for parties or special events, such as weddings or even cocktail parties at your home. This service includes helping make beverage choices, estimating how much alcohol is necessary for a certain number of people, and even recommending bartenders. The Pomfret Spirit Shoppe is often tapped to help with charitable events and fundraisers, including beer and wine tastings hosted by local organizations (see events below) such as the Exchange Club of Northeastern CT. They are also members of the NECT Chamber of Commerce and the Pomfret Proprietors. And for thirty years, the Spirit Shoppe has served as the box office for the Performing Arts of NECT (the Three C's: Community Cultural Committee), taking calls for reservations and selling tickets for this non-profit group.

The historic building that houses Pomfret Spirit Shoppe has always been a gathering place. According to Mary, during the 1800s the current owner, blacksmith Richard Clemens, wanted a larger house, so he moved and attached a former one-room schoolhouse. This became his summer kitchen..."a gathering place for all the neighborhood children, for parties and dancing and for warming up after sledding down the hill out front into Woodstock."

In 1948, the property was sold to Erik Ryhanen and the summer kitchen became a package store. In 1951, Bernard and Edna Patenaude, who owned and ran City Hotel in Webster, MA, for fifteen years, bought the property and commenced to expand the business, adding walk-in coolers and more storage. In the 1960s, they nearly doubled the size of the retail space. This area became the Wine Shed and the tradition began of stocking and selling more than 1,000 different kinds of domestic and imported wines, as well as many fine imported and domestic liquors and beer. The Patenaude's son, David, and wife, Mary, purchased the business and property in 1979, just after a devastating fire ruined all of the inventory and could have destroyed the house had it not been for a brick wall that was part of the old schoolhouse. Since then, the second generation of Patenaudes has continued the family business into its 58th year of ownership under the Patenaude family name. ***For more information call 928-2946.***

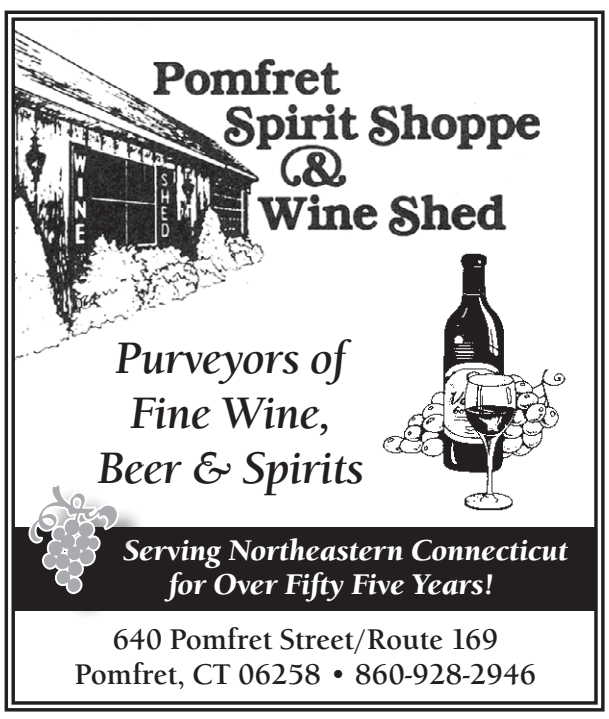
Mary & David Petenaude

Upcoming Events

Wed. Oct. 7th at J D Coopers. Beer Tasting -6:00 to 8:30. To benefit The Exchange Club of NECT's charitable causes. Open to the public. Tickets will be available at the Pomfret Spirit Shoppe, J.D. Coopers, and from members of the Exchange Club.

Thursday, Oct. 15th at The Inn at Woodstock Hill—Wine Tasting–6:00 to 8:30. To benefit Why Me?/Sherry's House. Love and support for families with childhood cancer. All support and services delivered completely free of charge. Open to the public–tickets–Body By Design - 860-928-0492.

April 2010 at The Harvest. Wine Tasting to benefit The Exchange Club of NECT's charitable causes.



The Ideal Playground for Mountain Bikers

Undeniably, Northeast Connecticut is scenic. It is a lovely place to raise a family. It offers quaint towns and beautiful country roads. Sometimes, though, it may seem that there isn't much to do. Not so for the hundreds of weekend warriors blazing trails through the woods on their mountain bikes. According to them, the one thing that the Quiet Corner can offer them in abundance is a place to ride. In other words, these bikers are surrounded by their ideal playground.

BY DOT BURNWORTH

"There is nothing like covering twenty miles and seeing nothing but forest," said Liz Allen, a Cat 1 (expert level) mountain bike racer. Liz, who has always been into sports, competing in track and field throughout high school, turned to cycling four years ago because it offered her a lower impact alternative to running. She started riding on her own, but quickly found the Tuesday night mountain bike ride organized by Danielson Adventure Sports, and soon after found the Route 66 race series organized by USA Cycling. Liz was hooked. Her competitive nature made racing the obvious next step, and she hasn't looked back. "It [biking] keeps me sane and fit at the same time," says Allen, who enjoys racing because it forces her to push herself, but also for the atmosphere. "Everyone is out there to have a good time."

It is not always love at first ride, however. The first time Cris Cadiz got out on a mountain bike, she was pretty miserable. "There is a hill in Bigelow Hollow that I still call the 'crying hill,'" says Cadiz. As she described her first foray into the woods on a bike, "It was hot, I was out of shape, and it was a tough ride. I got halfway up that hill and got off my bike, threw it into the woods and sat down and cried." Even so, something out there that day gave her the fever, too.

That was in 1993, and Cris has been riding ever since. Though she has competed in some of the local triathlons and road races, Cadiz truly enjoys riding just for the fun of it. Perhaps, thinking back to that first ride, it is surprising even to her that she thinks about it all the time.

The mountain biking community is a strong one. There are riders getting together every day of the week in Northeast Connecticut. Cris counts the people she rides with as "the best friends she has met."

While biking can be a great way to meet people and while there is always a fun atmosphere at group rides and races, another benefit of mountain biking is the solitude and peacefulness awaiting on a long solo ride in the woods. Don Dauphinais, owner of Danielson Adventure Sports, explains that while he used to race more and spend a lot of time riding with friends, he is now often drawn to get out on his bike alone. Choosing more technical rides with lots of climbs, Don is pushed by the physical as well as the mental challenge provided by the tougher trails. "So much is going by you--rocks, roots, different terrain--I like riding fast so that my bike floats over all of this."

Liz, Cris and Don, like so many of the other riders in the local mountain bike community, sneak in time to ride whenever they can. With so many trails to choose from in such a short drive, they are lucky to be living in the northeast corner of the state.

Trails in the area vary from dirt roads, singletrack and doubletrack.
Beginners should stick to dirt roads and doubletrack, singletrack being for the more advanced with rocks, roots and steep climbs.

Most trails are within heavily wooded areas and some are on open powerlines and feilds.

- **Old Furnace State Park.** Killingly - Mostly singletrack: intermediate to advanced. 6 mile loop.
- **Patchaug State Forest.** Griswald - Dirt roads, doubletrack, singletrack, All levels. 100 miles. variuos loops.
- **West Thompson Dam.** Thompson - Dirt roads, singletrack, doubletrack. All levels. 10 mile loop with spur trails.
- **Goodwin State Park.** Hampton - Dirt roads, singletrack, doubletrack. All levels. 30 miles, various loops.

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BY: NANCY WEISS

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Sunrun Gardens

With several acres of gardens, overflowing in early autumn with flowers and the last vegetables of summer, Sunrun Gardens is an inspiring place for the husband and wife team, who have operated their family business at the Quaddick Town Farm Road location for nearly two decades.

Sunrun Gardens provides flowers for weddings, showers and parties as well as dried arrangements throughout the year. Springtime brings a wide selection of plants, all organically grown, which are followed by an array of vegetables as the season progresses. In the heat of the day, when they can't work outside, the Landry's move into the shade of their work pavilion or into the cool of their shop to make the products they sell on a year-round basis.

"You create something and the public responds," said Lynn in describing the color combinations and products she and Al display in their shop.

The Landrys are Thompson natives who live in alignment with their personal values. They don't have a telephone nor do they purchase electricity, preferring instead to create their own through the use of photovoltaic cells. In summer, they cook with a sun oven and used a solar hot water heater for bathing and washing.

"We're pretty much down-to-earth. We like to be self-sufficient. We built our buildings. I make our clothes. We grow our food and heat with wood," Lynn explained in a soft, confident voice.

One of Lynn's sewing machines is run through an electrical inverter and the other is a foot powered treadle machine. With them, she creates an array of handcrafted items that express her sense of "doing things right" and her creative spirit.

Al Landry's family moved to Thompson and ran Matson Mills, a specialty plant that provided materials to weavers. Lynn, who learned to sew through the 4-H program, was fascinated by textiles and studied with a weaver before branching out on her own. As she became more and more accomplished, Al bought her a four-harness loom for their 25th wedding anniversary and she returned his generosity by weaving a coat for him.

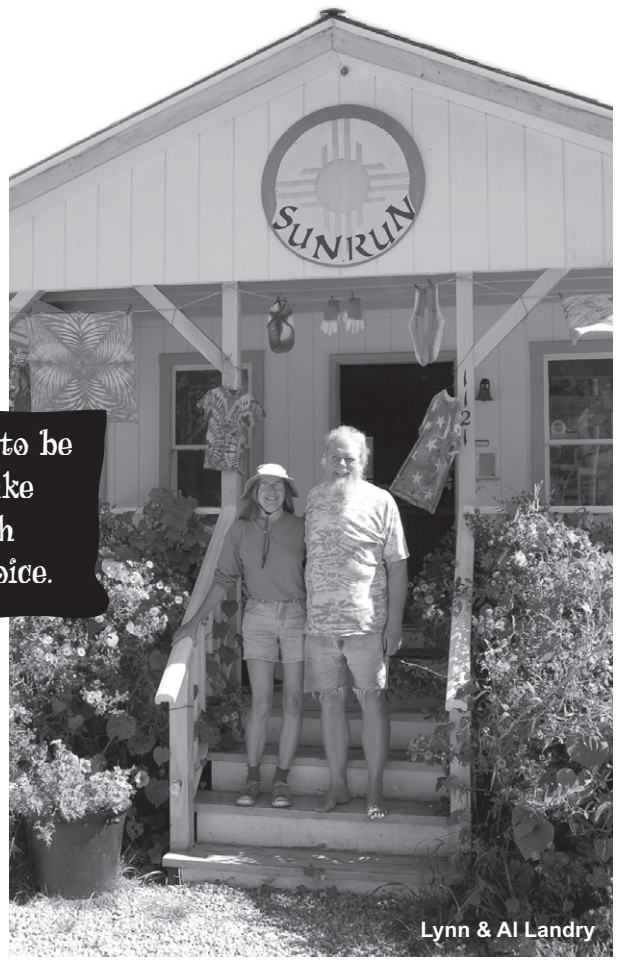
Landry's weaving takes many forms. She creates purses, placements, pillows, table runners and scarves largely from 100% cotton. Patterns range from traditional Colonial-era designs to vibrant rainbow colors with intricate overshot weaving. Geometric shapes infused with texture and shading emerge the longer one looks at the piece of work. Landry's weaving is artwork assembled into practical, useful items.

"We work with colors. Our combinations come from looking at the garden. We noticed the yellow and purple flowers together and began to add that pairing to our tie-dye items," Al said.

Tie-dyed items abound at Sunrun Gardens and add a bright, light atmosphere to the retail shop. The Landry's began tie dying t-shirts, socks and onesies, tiny one-piece garments for babies, and soon expanded into boxer shorts, scarves, bandanas, hats, bibs and towels.

"We come up with a design we haven't seen elsewhere. In tie-dye, it is a pinch, a spiral or a fold that makes the distinctive patterns," Lynn Landry said in explaining the way the swirl of colors and images are printed on to fabric.

"Our inspiration comes from the gardens," said Al Landry, owner with his wife Lynn of Sunrun Gardens in Thompson, as they look out on a pallet of colors that would make an artist swoon.



Lynn & Al Landry

By carefully moving her skilled fingers across an item of clothing or a piece of fabric, securing sections with elastic bands and then applying special high-quality dyes with squirt bottles, Landry creates an array of colors and designs that is a lively combination of the precision of the pattern and the exuberance of the colors.

"I tell Lynn to use wild colors," said Al with a chuckle as he displayed a tie dye shirt he was wearing that was an mélange of yellows, black and red.

Community spirit is deeply engrained in the Landry's. Through the years they have served on dozen of committees in their town and have been elected, appointed or volunteer for many organizations. Lynn and five others work on the annual community art show which last year involved 75 artists with over 150 pieces of artwork. Proceeds from the event benefited TEEG, a local social service organization.

Lynn Landry developed a heart design to apply to pillows and other items in support of a program called Community of Heart, to purchase defibulators. She proudly noted that raffle tickets were eagerly purchased for the heart pillow and that through the fund-raising efforts, Thompson was designated a heart safe community based on the availability of the defibulators.

As the holidays approach, Al and Lynn Landry line up rows of dried flower bouquets, enlivened by nodding sprays of sea oat grasses, tie dye dresses, shirts and baby items, pottery, jars of local honey. Elegant table runners, soft pillows and packets of placemats vie with colorful scarves for possibilities as gifts for oneself or others.

Sunrun Gardens is open daily from 10 –5 in October and 10-4 in November. On weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas from 10-4 Lynn and Al Landry will welcome customers to experience their sustainably grown products and share their commitment to the natural life in northeastern Connecticut.

848 Rte 171 • Woodstock, CT • 860-974-1263
www.taylorbrookewinery.com

Taylor Brooke WINERY

Check out our seasonal releases:
Autumn Raspberry – *Labor Day Weekend*
Cranberry Riesling – *November 1st*
New Release for Dec. 1st – *to be announced on website!*

Bring your picnic lunch.
Enjoy it out in the vineyard or Purchase some CT Grown cheese, a glass of wine and sit on our wine patio.

Join us for a wine tasting and self-guided tour of the vineyard.
Friday 11-6, Saturday and Sunday 11-5.

Experience the Vintage of the Quiet Corner

CONNECTICUT GROWN
THE LOCAL FLAVOR.

Painting by Tom Menard

Putnam Traveler's Weekend Trip Planner

WHERE TO STAY, DINE & BE ENTERTAINED...

Martha's Herbary, Pomfret

❖ **FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK IN:**
Enjoy traditional New England lodging at ***Taylor's Corner Bed & Breakfast*** **(www.taylorsbb.com)** in Woodstock. Antique furniture and wide board floors decorate this 18th Century house listed on the National Register of Historic Homes. Lush perennial gardens and old stonewalls surround the property. Three guest bedrooms have queen beds, private baths, A/C, and fireplaces. Relax in any of the three common rooms each with real wood burning fireplaces. Incredible breakfasts, fresh baked goods, refreshments, WIFI, satellite TV, DVD's and games are all included.

For visitors who prefer to stay in a hotel, check into ***America's Best Value Inn*** **(www.quietcornerinn.com)** in Brooklyn–rated the "Best of the Best" among Americas Best Value Inn properties.

❖ **FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER:**
Locals and visitors enjoy dining at the popular ***J.D. Coopers Restaurant*** **(www.jdcoopers.net)** located southeast of Downtown Putnam. J.D. Coopers offers several dining areas to satisfy all tastes. The Dining Room has quiet corner tables for two and can accommodate gatherings for up to 150 people. The Boar's Head Tavern is a quaint lounge suited to quiet socializing and drinking. The Sports Pub offers a dining area, large bar, seven televisions, pool tables, fooseball and an outdoor deck. The menu here is extensive, including appetizers, salads, sandwiches and burgers, fresh fish and seafood, steaks and prime rib on Friday and Saturday nights.

❖ **SATURDAY BREAKFAST:**
Pay a visit to ***Main Street Grille***, located at 172 Main Street in Putnam. This is another local favorite where breakfast is served all day. Everything here is homemade and coffee is just .50 cents a cup!

❖ **SATURDAY MID-MORNING:**
Pick-your-own apples at ***Lapsley Orchard*** **(www.farmfresh.org)** located at 403 Orchard Hill Road in Pomfret. Lapsley's offers a large variety of apples and free hay rides on weekends throughout the season. They also sell their own fresh vegetables, apple cider, pumpkins, flowers and mums.

❖ **SATURDAY LUNCH:**
Eat lunch at the newly remodeled ***Someplace Special*** **(www.someplacespecial.com)** located at 58 Main Street in Putnam. Best known for their pizza & wraps, Someplace Special offers an extensive menu of choices from traditional to gourmet. Since the remodel, Someplace Special has added a charbroil grill and more entrees to the lunch and dinner menu. The atmosphere is casual and now diners can enjoy dining inside or out on the beautiful new patio!

❖ **SATURDAY AFTERNOON:**
Spend the afternoon shopping for the holidays (or for yourself) at the unique shops and art galleries located in ***Woodstock, Pomfret and Putnam***. Find antique treasures and furniture, local wine and food items, hand woven pillows and scarves, handmade jewelry, women's clothing and accessories, children's gifts, beautiful art, pottery, books and so much more! In this issue of the Putnam Traveler, we have listed the many shops we think are worth visiting.

For those who like adventure, we also suggest you take a short drive to ***Danielson Adventure Sports*** **(www.bikect.com)**, located in downtown Danielson. Here you'll find bikes and snowboard equipment for all ages and abilities.

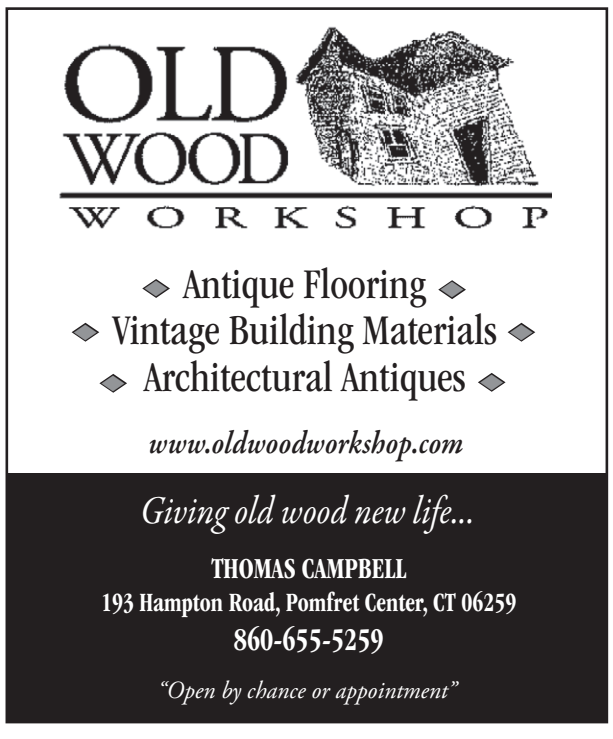
❖ **SATURDAY DINNER:**
Since its creation in 1963 by Bob & Virginia "Jimmie" Booth, the ***Golden Lamb Buttery*** **(www.thegoldenlamb.com)**, located in Brooklyn, has become one of Connecticut's most exquisite, creative and memorable dining experiences. In 2008, Bob & Jimmie's granddaughter, Katie, began as the hostess and proprietor.

An evening at the Golden Lamb begins as guests are welcomed for cocktails in the old red barn, filled with antiques, memorabilia, and family treasures. The deck promises a lovely scene of the pond and the sheep, horses & cows are grazing in the pastures. Dinnertime arrives, and guests are led into the restaurant through a tiny kitchen, filled with amazing aromas, where their meal is being prepared. Be sure to make reservations early!

Evening entertainment includes performances at the Bradley Playhouse in downtown Putnam. Live entertainment at Victoria Station Café in Putnam or at the Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret.

❖ **SUNDAY MORNING:**
Take the ***Maize Quest Challenge at Fort Hill Farms*** **(www.forthillfarms.com)** in Thompson. This is like no other corn maze you have experienced. The 2009 maze theme is "Building awareness about the nature of food!" The design is a cow and her calf. The main maze is the cow, sponsored by Stop & Shop, the Mini-Moo-Maze is sponsored by The Farmer's Cow. As you get your exercise, you will also learn about our farm, where your milk comes from, and how The Farmer's Cow is working to save a way of life that could be lost. When entering the maze you are given a 4-page game sheet, you walk the paths looking for clues about why locally-grown food and the slow food movement is so good for you, and why it leads to healthy families. In the maze, you will encounter 30 desks, which have the answers you need for your game sheet. Work together to meet the Maize Quest Challenge!

Thank you for visiting northeastern Connecticut...we look forward to bringing you more weekend planner ideas in future issues of the Putnam Traveler.

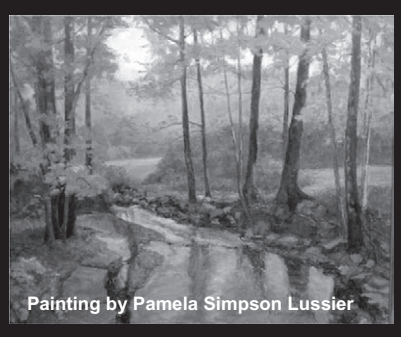


Calendar of Events

October

Month of October
Walktober
This annual event includes free guided walks, rides and paddles, and promotes events associated with the mission of the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor.
www.thelastgreenvalley.org

Complimentary Tea Tastings
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes,
Pomfret, CT
Every weekend in October. Enjoy 10% off purchases of the "tastings of the week." Come be refreshed and as you enjoy the Gallery.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com


Painting by Pamela Simpson Lussier

25th, 1-5pm
Artists Reception for
Pamela Simpson Lussier
Sochor Art Gallery
Putnam, CT
Pamela is a contemporary painter who weaves together Inpressionist brush strokes and realism. Her work has been featured in CT Magazine and American Artist Magazine. Join us for refreshments and meet the artist.
www.artsandframingputnam.com

16, 17, 23 & 24th @ 8pm
18 & 25th @ 2pm
A Murder is Announced
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
Adapted from Agatha Christie's novel by Leslie Darbon, a newspaper advertisement announces the time and place of an upcoming murder. In this classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives and concealed identities Miss Marple provides the final solution.
www.bradleyplayhouse.org

17th & 18th, 10-4:30pm
(Rain or Shine)
Annual Fine Arts & Crafts Festival at Roseland Cottage,
Woodstock, CT
This festival is one of the leading juried fine arts and crafts shows in New England and features 175 artisans and their wares - jewelry, woodworking, pottery, clothing, metalwork, and much more. Enjoy live music, a food court, and first floor tours of Roseland Cottage.
Admission: free to Historic New England members and children under 12,
$5 nonmembers
www.historicnewengland.org

24th
1st Annual Northeastern, CT
Pumpkin Festival & Craft Fair
Featuring live music, a huge craft fair, pumpkin carving, scarecrow contests, a flea market in the North End, amazing pumpkin cuisine from local restaurants, and much more!
www.discoverputnam.com

30th, 5-7pm
Putnam's Trick-or-Treat Night
Downtown Putnam
Businesses from Jessica Tuesday's to Jade Garden Restaurant will hand out free candy to the kids. Safe and fun!
www.winyradio.com

November

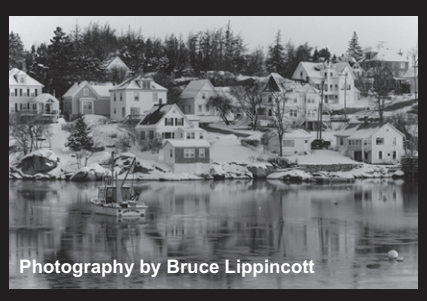
18th through Jan. 3rd
Small Works: Artful Treasures
Exhibition & Sale
Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes,
Pomfret, CT
In the tradition of many galleries during the holiday season, Celebrations' "Small Works" show is designed to entice customers to give the ultimate gift of original artwork. A variety of original, framed art in a range of mixed media, all under $200 will be featured.
www.celebrationsshoppes.com

21st, 1-5pm
Art Reception
Sochor Art Gallery
Putnam, CT
New to the market..14 canvases that have been stored in an attic for the last 50 years! The family of the late and talented Aino Koskinen Blomberg present these works that were done in the early 1930's Aino was studying art in New York City. Please join us for refreshments, meet the family and be amazed.
www.artsandframingputnam.com

21st, 10-2pm
Holiday Fair
Masonic Lodge, Woodstock, CT (Route 169, in front of the Woodstock Fair Grounds)
Holiday cactus, handcrafted & knitted gifts, baked goods, gifts for our furry friends, themed gift baskets and wreaths.
Luncheon is served from 11– 2pm.

27th @ 4pm
Santa is Coming to Putnam
Rotary Park, Putnam
Free candy canes, hot chocolate and cookies
www.winyradio.com

28th through Dec. 23rd
Open 9am-4pm Mon.-Fri. &
noon to 4pm Sat. & Sun.
Holiday Nature Store
Audubon Center at Pomfret, CT
Gifts for all ages, with mother nature in mind.
www.ctaudubon.org


Photography by Bruce Lippincott

28th & 29th, 10-5pm
Artists' Open Studio Tour 2009
Artists' Open Studios presents more than 80 artists in as many studio locations! While you enjoy the variety and quality of the artwork, you will be supporting art, artists, and a valuable tradition in the Quiet Corner.
Admission is Free.
www.aosct.org

29th @ 5pm
Razzle Dazzle Light Parade
Downtown Putnam
It's a festive, fun-filled, illuminated holiday parade to celebrate the spirit of the season!
www.winyradio.com

December

Month of December
Friday Night Holiday Strolls
Downtown Putnam
Every Friday from Thanksgiving to Christmas, the shops in Old Towne Putnam will be open to help with your holiday shopping! Come stroll the streets of Putnam, peruse the shops, grab a bite to eat or a hot Latte or Cappuccino, and soak up the holiday spirit!
www.discoverputnam.com

Museum Shop Holiday Fair
Thompson Historical Society
Thompson, CT
Holiday gifts, gift wrap, decorations.
New items added regularly.
www.thompsonhistorical.org
(visit website for details)

BRADLEY

4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19th @ 8pm,
6, 13 & 20th @ 2pm
Broadway Live - Christmas 2009
Who knows what will unfold in the Bradley's 2009 Broadway Live musical production? The Grinchess is reported to make a return appearance, but no one will say who else might return to welcome in the Holiday season! Reserve your seats early because this performance will sell out!
www.bradleyplayhouse.org

5th & 6th, 10-5pm
Artists' Open Studio Tour 2009
Artists' Open Studios presents more than 80 artists in as many studio locations! While you enjoy the variety and quality of the artwork, you will be supporting art, artists, and a valuable tradition in the Quiet Corner.
Admission is Free.
www.aosct.org

On Going Events

Art @ the Library
Art Shows & Lectures
Thompson Public Library
860-923-9779
www.thompsonpubliclibrary.org

Connecticut Audubon Society -
Center at Pomfret -
Lots to See & Do
Pomfret, CT
860-928-4849
www.ctaudubon.org
Located on scenic Route 169, the 700 acre Bafflin Sanctuary offers miles of walking trails for the public to enjoy daily from dawn to dusk.

Jeffrey Foucault @ VBC

The Vanilla
Bean Café
Pomfret, CT
860-928-1562
www.vanillabeancafe.com
The Vanilla Bean features live folk music every Saturday @ 8 PM. and displays artwork from local artisans.

Roseland Cottage
Woodstock, CT
www.historicnewengland.org
Roseland Cottage is offering tours, teas, concerts, and encampments throughout the year.

Paul Cataldo @ VSC

Victoria Station Cafe
Putnam, CT
860-928-2600
www.victoriastationcafe.com
Victoria Station Cafe features live music on occasion throughout the season.

Arts & Framing
Putnam, CT
860-963-0105
www.artsandframingputnam.com
Features art exhibits throughout the season.

Jewelry @ Silver Circle Studio

Silver Circle Studio
Putnam, CT
860-963-2900
www.silvercirclestudio.com
Features local artwork and art exhibits throughout the season. Offers a range of workshops and art classes for all ages.

Editorial Correction:
In the *2009 Summer Issue of the Putnam Traveler*–the 'Ice Cream' story stated inaccurate information about the new *Quiet Corner Creamery*–located in Putnam. We would like to inform our readers that the Quiet Corner Creamery equipment was purchased solely by owner, Gary Rawson.

Someplace Special

HAS A NEW LOOK...

BY CRIS CADIZ

Tony Pasiakos has been in the restaurant business for 32 years so he knew a good opportunity when he saw one last year, when he met with an architect in Boston to look at a restaurant design. Pasiakos did not want a new restaurant, he just wanted to spruce up his already popular Someplace Special. Located on Main Street in downtown Putnam, Someplace Special opened in its current location in 1983 and has been a local family favorite ever since.

"We've been known for many years as a great pizza place," says Pasiakos. "We have one of the most extensive choices for pizza from traditional to gourmet. We were the first in the area to offer gourmet pizzas and we were pioneers of wraps in the area. Today, our wraps outsell sandwiches and grinders. We also have a large variety of salads." Someplace Special was also known and loved for large portions and reasonable prices, which kept local customers coming back for more.

Despite his restaurant's success, Pasiakos saw an opportunity for improvement. He watched a transformation happening in downtown Putnam's restaurant business and knew the time was ripe for change. "We saw what was going on with the outside dining patio," says Pasiakos of the new outdoor seating across the street from Someplace Special. "It looked busy and people loved it because it was a new venue." Pasiakos had planned to renovate his restaurant's interior and expand the kitchen. He also wanted to refurbish the exterior and add a patio. "The outside had a dated look," he explained. Timing was perfect since the town of Putnam was offering a façade program that paid for 80% of outside improvements. "So, we hired an architect and I said I wanted something different from anything within 50 miles," Pasiakos says. The architect took him to see a restaurant he had just finished in Boston with an upscale pub look. Pasiakos liked what he saw and the work began.

"We decided to do the windows all mahogany and the outside in brick. It was tough in the winter because it was so cold the guys couldn't work half the time." Pasiakos hired local carpenter Dan Herridan for the mahogany woodwork. He says it was Herridan's idea to create mahogany planters (instead of brick) to carry that design element through onto the patio. "We hired quite a few local people," says Pasiakos who commended the work by Artistic Stamped Concrete, Ken's Electric and Windham Sheet Metal.

To complete the transformation, Someplace Special was closed for one week and then it reopened with take-out service only. The dining room was closed for three months. Along with the outside façade renovation, the entire interior was gutted, new equipment was added to the kitchen including a charbroil grill, bathrooms were moved, a bar was installed, even the table settings were replaced. "It wasn't just 'Let's make the place nice and keep our present customers'," says Pasiakos. "I wanted to give people a nicer place but keep reasonable prices. I didn't want to chase away what we already had, but acquire new customers. I wanted family prices with an upscale look."

A big change is the addition of a bar that now occupies most of one side of the restaurant. It is large but classy and not overbearing. Ten beers are on tap and Pasiakos is happy that customers who enjoy a cocktail before dinner can now take advantage of the full bar. Restaurant manager Mike Vassar agrees that adding the bar has created a new dimension. "We've attracted a different clientele. People sit at the bar and

The final result is impressive, even if you did not see the restaurant's "before" state for comparison. Classic divided-light windows in richly colored mahogany let in natural light along two sides of the building. The outdoor patio is simple and pleasing, featuring tables with umbrellas and bright flowers in mahogany planters gracing the edge of the surrounding brick wall. The warm colors of exterior mahogany and brick are carried inside to rusty-red painted walls. Pendant lights offer a soft warm glow and dark-framed sepia photographs of Putnam during the early 1900s ornament the walls. Pasiakos thanks the Aspinock Historical Society for letting him scan and make prints of the pictures, which apparently overwhelmed one older patron who was brought to tears by them.

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Hearts, Hands and Homes
Community Collaborative for Foster Care and Adoption

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Consider becoming a foster or adoptive parent for a child from your community.
For more information please call Hearts, Hands and Homes coordinator at
860-823-3778

enjoy a cocktail. We have a wide screen TV for sports. We also have Happy Hour from 3 to 6PM Monday through Friday with discounted drinks and appetizers." Despite the new bar, Someplace Special is still a family restaurant (they added a changing table to the women's rest room) and still a family business. Pasiakos' two daughters Kira and Karina both work at the restaurant as a waitress and manager. And although the menu is similar to before the renovations, upgrades have been made. New entrees have been added and the charbroil grill means they now serve Black Angus Steaks. "Everything is fresh... chicken, veal. Everything

changed to fit the new look," says Pasiakos. He admits there were some customers who might have felt a little uncomfortable or awkward with the changes. "We are still casual," he says. "You don't need a suit and tie." Although he is semi-retired and spends his winters in Arizona, Pasiakos is truly enjoying the renovation and the new business it has brought. "I like it more now than I ever did," he says. "I like how it is set up. Everything works right. Nothing is falling apart. The menu is great. I think we have improved the quality and choice 300%."

Located at 58 Main Street, Putnam, Someplace Special is open 7 days a week and offers daily specials, weekday lunch portions & prices, take-out, delivery, kids' menu and catering service. www.someplacespecial.com

Celebrate Fall in The Last Green Valley during the 19th-Annual Walktober

Get out and enjoy the splendors of the season right here in your own backyard!

It's that time of year again when the air becomes crisp and the leaves morph into brilliant autumnal splendor. What better way to celebrate the season than by getting out of the house and partaking in at least one of the nearly 100 free guided hikes, walks and paddles during the month of October and more than 25 special events scheduled throughout the months of October and November, all throughout the 35 towns of The Last Green Valley in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts.

Choose from among walks and paddles like: Rails, Mills and A River in Willimantic, CT, at the CT Eastern Railroad Museum and learn about railroad history as participants walk along the Willimantic River; or perhaps a 5-mile Foliage Paddle on the Quinebaug beginning in Wauregan, CT, and traversing through scenic countryside along one of the most bucolic sections of the river; or how about an invigorating and more difficult hike along the Airline State Park Trail to the Tri-State Marker to enjoy spectacular views in Thompson, CT. There is another old favorite returning this year in Brooklyn, CT, entitled, Where the Buffalo Roam, a walk to see hundreds of American Bison and then warm up afterwards with a sample of bison chili.

History buffs will not want to miss, Civil War: Trying To Do My Duty in Brimfield, MA, at the Hitchcock Academy where Kitty and Larry Lowenthal will share excerpts from their book with the same title.

The multitude of special events featured during Walktober includes three different corn mazes in Coventry, Preston, and Thompson, CT, the NE CT Great Pumpkin Festival in Putnam, CT, a Lantern Light Graveyard Walk in Norwich, CT, led by ghost hunter, Donna Kent and featuring the Old Norwichtown Burial Ground & the Norwichtown Green, the Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Festival at Roseland Cottage in Woodstock, CT, and the Farmer's Market Kitchen in Storrs, CT, which is a series of five "farm-to-fork" cooking demonstrations using fresh ingredients from local farms.

But that's not all. Also showcased during the months of October and November are the abundant farms found throughout The Last Green Valley where you can tag your Christmas tree and select a farm-fresh turkey in time for the holidays.

Call The Last Green Valley toll-free at (866) 363-7226 for a brochure, or visit our website www.thelastgreenvalley.org to view or download the complete Walktober schedule.

58 MAIN ST. • PUTNAM, CT 06260
(860) 928-6660
www.someplacespecial.com

Full Bar, Outside dining, Catering, Take Out & Delivery

Come see what makes us the place to eat in northeastern Connecticut!

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A Higher Level of Quality Now on Sale!

Charlton Furniture invites you to experience the area's premier display of quality home furnishings, where you'll find a higher level of quality *doesn't* have to come at a higher price.

Complimentary design service available.

Just minutes from the CT line!

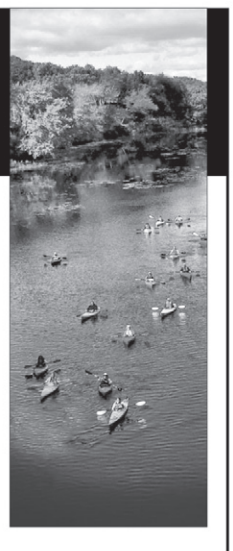
107 Dresser Hill Rd, (Rte 31), Charlton, MA 01507
508•248•5566

Charlton Furniture
charltonfurniture.com

Take the Road Less Traveled...

in The Last Green Valley during the entire month of October

With more than 100 FREE, guided walks, bikes, and paddles, and over 50 regional events, visitors and residents alike will enjoy exploring the natural, historical and cultural treasures of the The Last Green Valley in northeastern CT and south central MA every day during the entire month of October.



Walktober

For more information call toll-free 1 (866) 363-7226 or visit www.thelastgreenvalley.org

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The Quiet Corner is full of small, unique retail shops offering charming settings and treasures you won't find just anywhere. We have put together a list of shops and art galleries that we think are worth the trip!

Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes

POMFRET

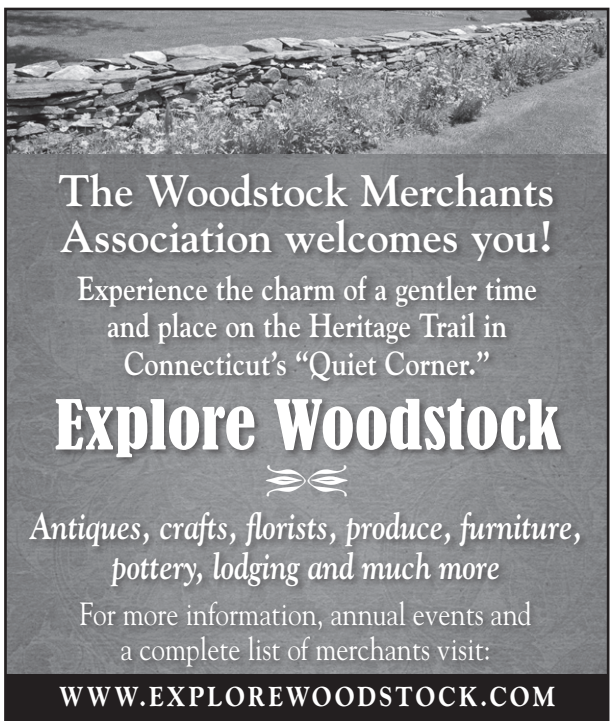
• *Celebrations Gallery & Shoppes*
(www.celebrationsshoppes.com) Original artwork, jewelry, specialty teas and accessories, and great gifts. This 1885 Queen Anne Victorian offers 2 floors and 10 rooms full of treasures.

• *Hazelwood Fine Arts & Crafts*
(www.hazelwoodfinecrafts.com) Features gorgeous work by artisans across the country.

• *MaJILLY*
(www.majilly.com) Browse a restored 19th-century barn full of hand painted Italian tableware and other home décor, gifts and garden wares.

• *Martha's Herbary*
(www.marthasherbary.com) Herbs and garden-related gifts plus handmade bath & beauty products, jewelry, scarves, and more.

• *Pomfret Spirit Shoppe & Wine Shed*
(640 Pomfret Street/Route 169)
Purveyors of Fine Wine, Beer & Spirits.
Gift baskets available.



WOODSTOCK

• *American Doll Clothes Co.*
(376 New Sweden Road) Doll clothes, shoes and accessories for 18" dolls, the popular American Girl Dolls and for Bitty Baby.

• *Coco's Cottage*
(253 Route 171) Tiny but packed with one-of-a-kind gifts and stylish ladies clothing, accessories and jewelry.
Flying Carpet Hot Glass Studio
(www.flyingcarpetstudio.com) More jewelry, beads, and women's clothing.

Coco's Cottage

• *Garden Gate Florist & Gift Shop*
(www.gardengatefloristct.com) Lovely flowers and plants plus lots of gifts, many made by local artisans.

• *McClellan Elms Antiques*
(www.mcclellanelmsantiques.com) Quality antiques including furniture.

• *Mrs. Bridge's Pantry*
(www.mrsbridgespantry.com) Tea and tea accessories plus tasty treats from England.

• *Scranton Shops* **(300 Route 169)** Mix of antiques, crafts & gifts.

• *Taylor Brooke Winery*
(www.taylorbrookewinery.com) Produces a premium line of high quality specialty wines as well as local products & handcrafted gifts.

• *The Christmas Barn*
(www.thechristmasbarnonline.com) This 12-room barn is full of Christmas, Fall, Halloween, Primitives, and so much more.

• *Thimble Cottage Barn*
(815 Route 169) Carries a nice selection of country items, gifts and home decor. Featuring local artisans and handcrafted products.

• *Windy Acres Florist & Greenhouse*
(www.windyacresflorist.com) More lovely flowers, plants, garden ornaments & seasonal decorations.

• *Woodstock Antiques*
(326 Route 169) Fine China, furniture, vintage linens, early American glass gifts and collectibles.

PUTNAM

• *Abigail's Jewel Box*
(www.abigailsjewelbox.com) Gorgeous vintage and fine jewelry.

• *Antiques Marketplace*
(109 Main Street) Where you can find literally thousands of historic treasures & furniture for sale.

• *Arts & Framing / Sochor Art Gallery*
(www.artsandframingputnam.com) Features custom framing and original work by local and regional artists.

• *Crabtree & Evelyn*
(www.crabtree-evelyn.com) Bath and body products, fragrances, gifts, Vera Bradley, and home décor.

• *Daisy's Couture*
(www.daisyscouture.com) New & consignment clothing, jewelry, furniture and home décor.

• *Gallery by the Falls*
(www.gallerybythefalls.com) An art gallery, owned and run by an artist, featuring real art by real people for real people, offering a variety of styles and media.

• *Jeremiah's Antiques* **(26 Front Street)** Carries an eclectic assortment of antique items.

• *Sawmill Pottery*
(www.sawmillpottery.com) Features handmade pottery and original artwork by local and regional artists.

Wonderland Books

• *Silver Circle Studio*
(www.silvercirclestudio.com) A gallery of contemporary art and handcrafted gifts.

• *Vintage-to-Vogue*
(www.vintagetovogueshops.com) Antiques & Vintage items, Victorian cards, candles, jewelry and gifts!

• *Wellington Curtain & Gift Shoppe*
(www.wellingtoncurtain.com) Window treatments, shades, hardware, shower curtains and gifts.

• *Woolworks Yarn Shoppe*
(www.woolworksltd.com) Yarn, needlework supplies and gifts.

• *Wonderland Books*
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Putnam Welcomes

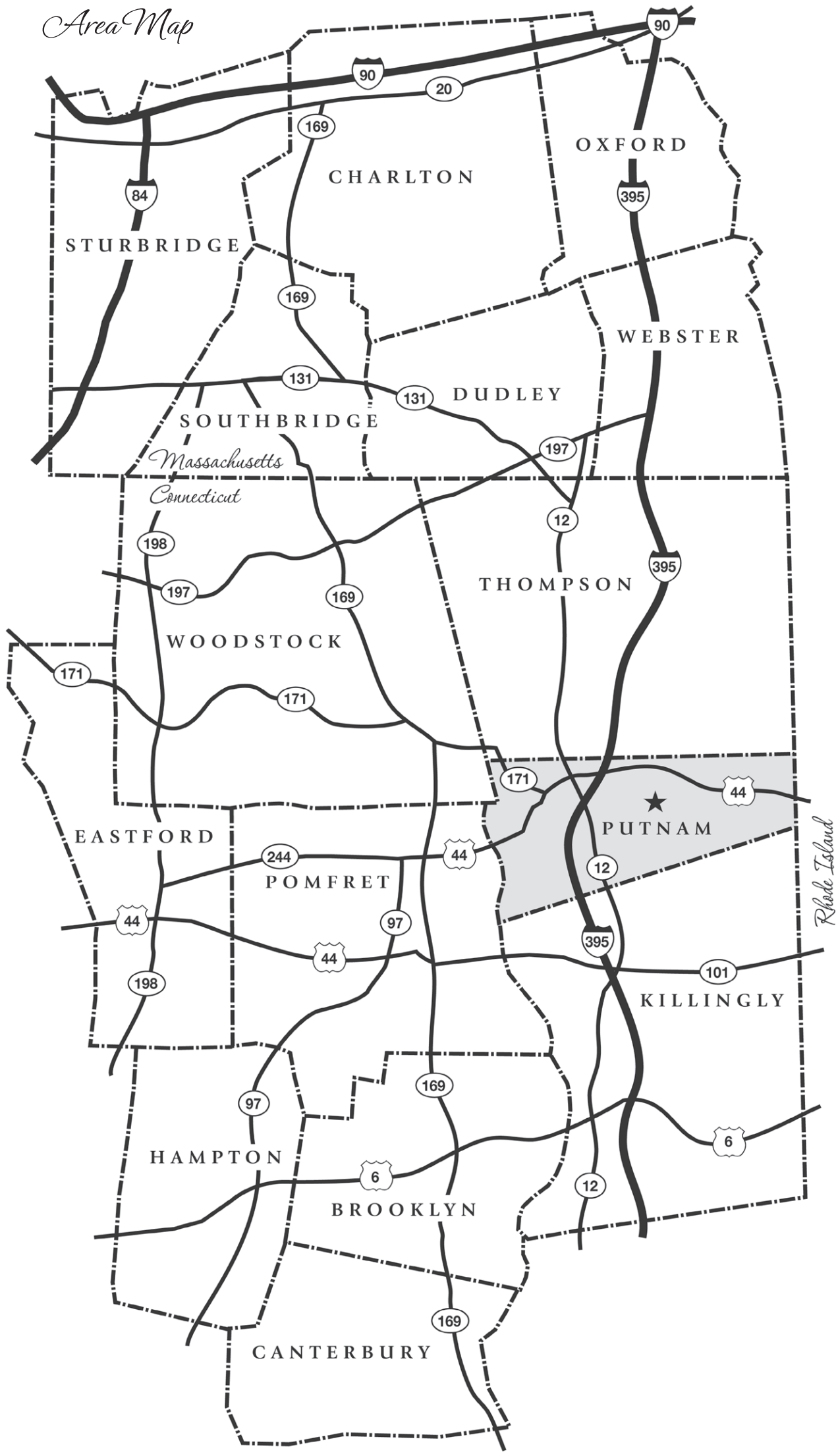
Crabtree & Evelyn

Crabtree & Evelyn, known for its naturally-inspired bath, body and home care, opened a community store in Putnam, CT, on September 2, 2009. Located in the River Front Commons plaza in Putnam, the store will sell outlet merchandise, full-price merchandise, and Vera Bradley. The selection of the Putnam site was influenced in part by the increased retail and community activity that Putnam has been experiencing over the last two years.

This Crabtree & Evelyn store will support the community with charity drives to assist various local service organizations. The first of which will be a Winter Coat Drive to benefit Putnam's Daily Bread Clothing Closet. Scott Sincerbeaux, vice president of retail at Crabtree & Evelyn, said, "We are an important part of this thriving community. We decided that the time was right to open a store to say thank you to our customers who live right on our doorstep while doing our part to help neighbors in need."

Crabtree & Evelyn currently services approximately 3,000 wholesale accounts and operates 125 retail stores and an e-commerce site at www.crabtree-evelyn.com. Other distribution channels include hotel amenities. Crabtree & Evelyn is available online and in more than 40 countries, with approximately 6,000 wholesale accounts and 500 retail locations worldwide.

For more information or to purchase products, please visit www.crabtree-evelyn.com or call 800-CRABTREE. Better yet, visit the new store location at: 233A Kennedy Drive in Putnam (Ph: 860.963.2425).



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